

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for creating photographic-quality prints, comprising:
providing a transparent carrier having first and second surfaces;
providing an image to the second surface of the transparent carrier;
5 and
applying a particle-based undercoat to the second surface of the
transparent carrier, such that at least a portion of the image is between the
transparent carrier and the particle-based undercoat.
- 10 2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the particle-based undercoat
comprises an opaque powdercoat, toner, pigment, or powdered plastic.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the particle-based undercoat
comprises one or more of the following: poly(vinyl chloride), poly(vinylidene
15 chloride), poly(vinyl chloride-co-vinylidene chloride), chlorinated polypropylene,
poly(vinyl chloride-co-vinyl acetate), poly(vinyl chloride-co-vinyl acetate-co-
maleic anhydride), ethyl cellulose, nitrocellulose, poly(acrylic acid) esters,
linseed oil-modified alkyd resins, rosin-modified alkyd resins, phenol-modified
alkyd resins, phenolic resins, polyesters, poly(vinyl butyral), polyisocyanate
20 resins, polyurethanes, poly(vinyl acetate), polyamides, chroman resins, gum
damar, ketone resins, maleic acid resins, vinyl polymers, polystyrene,
polyvinyltoluene, copolymers of vinyl polymers with methacrylates or acrylates,
low-molecular weight polyethylene, phenol-modified pentaerythritol esters,
poly(styrene-co-indene-co-acrylonitrile), poly(styrene-co-indene), poly(styrene-
25 co-acrylonitrile), copolymers with siloxanes, polyalkenes, and poly(styrene-co-
butadiene).
4. The method according to claim 1 wherein applying a particle-based
undercoat comprises using a fluidized bed of charged particles.

5. The method according to claim 1 wherein applying a particle-based undercoat comprises forming a charged field using a corona wire and a ground plate to apply the particle-based undercoat.
- 5 6. The method according to claim 1 wherein applying a particle-based undercoat comprises using electrophotography to apply the particle-based undercoat.
7. The method according to claim 1 wherein applying a particle-based
10 undercoat comprises using single or dual component magnetic brush toning to apply the particle-based undercoat.
8. The method according to claim 1 wherein applying a particle-based undercoat comprises providing a particle-based undercoat to the transparent
15 carrier and then affixing the particle-based undercoat to the transparent carrier.
9. The method according to claim 8 wherein affixing the particle-based undercoat comprises fusing the particle-based undercoat onto the transparent carrier.
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10. The method according to claim 1 wherein providing an image to the transparent carrier comprises printing the image on the carrier using an inkjet printing process.
- 25 11. The method according to claim 1 wherein providing an image to the transparent carrier comprises printing the image on the carrier using a reverse printing process.
12. A photographic-quality print, comprising:
30 a transparent carrier having first and second surfaces;
an image on the second surface of the transparent carrier; and

a particle-based undercoat applied to the second surface of the carrier, such that at least a portion of the image is between the transparent carrier and the particle-based undercoat.

- 5 13. The photographic-quality print according to claim 12 wherein the particle-based undercoat comprises an opaque powdercoat, toner, pigment, or powdered plastic.
- 10 14. The photographic-quality print according to claim 12 wherein the particle-based undercoat comprises one or more of the following: poly(vinyl chloride), poly(vinylidene chloride), poly(vinyl chloride-co-vinylidene chloride), chlorinated polypropylene, poly(vinyl chloride-co-vinyl acetate), poly(vinyl chloride-co-vinyl acetate-co-maleic anhydride), ethyl cellulose, nitrocellulose, poly(acrylic acid) esters, linseed oil-modified alkyd resins, rosin-modified alkyd resins, phenol-
15 modified alkyd resins, phenolic resins, polyesters, poly(vinyl butyral), polyisocyanate resins, polyurethanes, poly(vinyl acetate), polyamides, chroman resins, gum damar, ketone resins, maleic acid resins, vinyl polymers, polystyrene, polyvinyltoluene, copolymers of vinyl polymers with methacrylates or acrylates, low-molecular weight polyethylene, phenol-modified pentaerythritol
20 esters, poly(styrene-co-indene-co-acrylonitrile), poly(styrene-co-indene), poly(styrene-co-acrylonitrile), copolymers with siloxanes, polyalkenes, and poly(styrene-co-butadiene).
- 25 15. The photographic-quality print according to claim 12 wherein the particle-based undercoat is fused onto the transparent carrier.
16. The photographic-quality print according to claim 12 wherein the image is provided to the transparent carrier using inkjet printing methods.
- 30 17. The photographic-quality print according to claim 12 wherein the image is provided to the transparent carrier by reverse printing methods.

18. An apparatus for producing photographic-quality prints, comprising:
an imager for providing an image to a surface of a transparent carrier; and
an undercoat module for applying a particle-based undercoat to the
surface of the transparent carrier, such that at least a portion of the image is
5 between the transparent carrier and the particle-based undercoat.
19. The apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the imager comprises an
inkjet engine.
- 10 20. The apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the imager is capable of
providing a reverse image.